

**IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Galen M. Gareis

CASE: 6500-1801

SERIAL NO.: Continuation of 09/452,702

FILED ON: 12/02/99

FOR: A Cable Separator Spline

)  
) Examiner of Parent:  
) William H. Mayo III  
)  
) Art Unit: 2831  
)  
)  
)  
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

- [x] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of Issue Fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany this payment.

***PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT***

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner William H. Mayo at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Telephone No: 703-305-1341 on April 2, 2001.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna B. Vandenberg

LEE, MANN, SMITH, McWILLIAMS,  
SWEENEY & OHLSON  
P.O. Box 2786  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 368-1300 (telephone)  
(312) 368-0034 (facsimile)

Prior to examining the above-identified application, please make the following Amendments.

***IN THE SPECIFICATION:***

Page 1, after the title, insert --This is a continuation application of application 09/452,702 filed December 12, 1999.--

***IN THE CLAIMS.***

Cancel claims 7-16.

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. A communication cable separator spline comprising:  
a longitudinally extending spline having a plurality of spaced longitudinally extending open pockets,  
a cross-section of said spline having a major axis and a minor axis,  
said major axis having a length (36) larger than a length (37) of said minor axis,  
at least one pocket being on the major axis, and  
at least one pocket being on the minor axis

***REMARKS***

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art. No new matter has been entered.

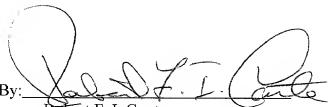
The prior art cited in applicant's form 1449 is the same as that cited in the parent application and therefore copies of the references are not necessary and are not being submitted. If the Examiner does want copies, applicant will submit them.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Oct 13, 2001

By:



Robert F. I. Conte  
Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams,  
Sweeney & Ohlson  
209 S. LaSalle St., Ste. 410  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Telephone: 312-368-1300  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No.: 20,354

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. A communication cable separator spline comprising:
- a longitudinally extending spline having a plurality of spaced longitudinally extending open pockets,
- a cross-section of said spline having a major axis and a minor axis,
- said major axis having a length (36) larger than a length (37) of said minor axis,
- at least one pocket being on the major axis, and
- at least one pocket being on the minor axis[, and]
- [each of said pockets have a cross-sectional area which is 75 % or less than a cross-sectional area of a circular envelope of an insulated cable to be placed in said pockets].